

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02168 01 OF 02 010054Z

63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 CU-02 SAJ-01 AGR-05 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 /127 W
----- 028955

R 311038Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 050

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 2168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA 28

1. FONMIN TO LIMA VIA PRC, DPRK (LOU)

ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE WILL
DEPART SOON FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA AND WILL VISIT
PEKING, PYONGYANG, VIENTIANE, AND PERHAPS OTHER ASIAN STATES IN
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02168 01 OF 02 010054Z

ROUTE. ROK ALSO EXTENDED INVITATION TO VISIT SEOUL WHICH HLA

PHONE MAY ACCEPT AFTER LIMA CONFERENCE. VISIT TO PRC IS NO DOUBT DESIGNED TO OFFSET SOMEWHAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN'S WELL-PUBLICIZED VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST MONTH. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW HLA PHONE IS RECEIVED IN PRC SINCE HE WAS RANGOON MILITARY COMMANDER AT THE TIME OF THE BLOODY 1967 ANTI-CHINESE RIOTS HERE.

2. BURMA AND THE TWO KOREAS (LOU)

ROK HAS DECIDED TO ACCREDIT ITS AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK TO RANGOON RATHER THAN NAME NEW AMBASSADOR OR PROMOTE PRESENT CHARGE. THIS PROVIDES DPRK WITH DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE AS IT HAD ALREADY NAMED ITS CHARGE AS AMBASSADOR TO BURMA (WEEKA 25, ITEM 3). ROK CHARGE SAID MOVE DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DOWNGRADING OF IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ACCORDS TO BURMA BUT RATHER THAT HE WAS NOT SENIOR ENOUGH, NOR HAD SEOUL ANYONE READILY AVAILABLE TO SEND AT THIS TIME. ROK WILL KEEP OFFICE OPEN IN RANGOON AND MAY NAME FULL-TIME AMBASSADOR HERE AFTER JANUARY 1. ROK CHARGE NOT WORRIED ABOUT DIPLOMATIC PRECEDENCE, POINTING OUT THAT DPRK OPENED CONGEN IN RANGOON ABOUT TWO YEARS BEFORE ROK. GUB HAS NAMED ITS AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO TO SERVE AS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO KOREA.

AS FOR RECENT VISIT OF DPRK PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY TO RANGOON (WEEKA 27, ITEM 5), WHO CALLED ON PRESIDENT NE WIN AND OTHER TOP GUB OFFICIALS, ROK CHARGE SAID HE WAS INTERESTED MAINLY IN OBTAINING GUB SUPPORT FOR DPRK ADMISSION TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA. MFA ASSURED CHARGE THAT GUB WOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL ON QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORTING ENTRY FOR BOTH KOREAS BUT NOT ONE AS OPPOSED TO OTHER. NOTING HEAVY FAVORABLE PUBLICITY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS GAVE VISIT, CHARGE SAID THIS WAS GOOD SIGN THAT GUB WOULD SAY "NO" TO DPRK PROPOSALS. "IT IS WHEN THEY COME AND GO QUIETLY THAT ONE MUST BE CAREFUL."

3. BRITISH AID TO GUB (UNCLAS)

UK AND GUB HAVE SIGNED TWO MILLION POUND AID AGREEMENT FOR BRITISH COMMODITIES AND SPARE PARTS FOR CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRIC POWER AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES. ORIGINALLY POPOSED AS AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN, THE ASSISTANCE WAS SQUATCHED TO GRANT BASIS REPORTEDLY DUE TO A RECENT CHANGE IN U.K. AID POLICIES TOWARD LEAST DEVELOPED LDC'S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 02168 01 OF 02 010054Z

COMMENT: BRITISH AID TO BURMA HAS LONG BEEN HELD UP BY UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED BRITISH PROPERTIES AND BANK ACCOUNTS. THIS GRANT MAY INDICATE THAT U.K. MAKING SOME PROGRESS IN SETTLING THESE CLAIMS.

4. NEW ENVOY TO INDONESIA (UNCLAS)

GUB HAS ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF COL. KHIN MAUNG LAY, HEAD OF THE

SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA. A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, COL. KHIN MAUNG LAY RECENTLY LED A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION THAT TOURED THE USSR.

5. FIRST BATCH OF UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS BEGINS (UNCLAS)

BECAUSE OF THE CLOSURE OF ALL UNIVERSITIES, INSTITUTES AND COLLEGES LAST JUNE, EXAMINATIONS FOR TRUNCATED ACADEMIC YEAR ARE BEING HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TOWNSHIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY. A TOTAL OF 24,783 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR THE EXAMINATIONS AT 270 CENTERS IN 116 TOWNSHIPS; 11,234 OF THESE WERE REGISTERED TO APPEAR AT 25 CENTERS IN RANGOON. DEPENDING ON THE INSTITUTION, STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED BY CLASS YEAR, WITH HALF THE STUDENTS TAKING THEIR EXAMINATIONS NOW AND THE OTHER HALF DURING SEPTEMBER. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT TEAMS OF RECTORS, PROFESSORS, LECTURERS AND PRINCIPALS CIRCULATED AROUND THE EXAMINATION CENTERS TO ASSIST IN SUPERVISION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

COMMENT: IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT GUB WILL RELAX EXAM STANDARDS TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH STUDENTS.

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02168 02 OF 02 010040Z

63

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 2168

6. 25,000 PASS BEHS IN RANGOON DIVISION (UNCLAS)

IN THE 1974-75 BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION FOR RANGOON DIVISION, 25,000 PASSED OUT OF A TOTAL OF 69,000 STUDENTS SITTING FOR THE EXAMS. THE PASSING RATE OF LESS THAN 50 PERCENT IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT 'A' LIST STUDENTS WILL WORK VOLUNTARILY FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WHILE AWAITING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02168 02 OF 02 010040Z

ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES.

7. NARCOTICS: (UNCLAS)

LO'S TRIAL LEADS TO MORE ARRESTS. A BRIEF PRESS ITEM JULY 26 NOTED THAT THREE MORE ARMY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER THE BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ACT. THE ACTION WAS CONNECTED TO THE LO-HSING-HAN CASE.

COMMENT: THE TRIAL OF EX-MAJOR KYAW NYEIN, FORMER CO OF MIS, TAUNGGYI, MIGHT ALSO PLAY A PART; HE MAY BE FINGERING SOME OF HIS PAST COHORTS.

8. NARCOTICS: HEROIN SEIZURES (UNCLAS)

POLICE ARRESTED THREE PERSONS AND SEIZED 24 PACKETS OF NUMBER FOUR MSROIN IN TWO SEPARATE ACTIONS ACURING THE WEEK. IN BOTH CASES, POLICE WERE ACTING ON PRIOR INFORMATION. ONE ARREST OCCURED IN RANGOON; THE SECOND IN SHWEBO, AN AREA NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTED AS A HEROIN-USING SITE.
HOWARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO02168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750265-0188
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975074/aaaaaczm.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA 28
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006